



**Chandler • Arizona**  
*Where Values Make The Difference*



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# *History of Chandler*

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- 1887** – *Dr. Alexander John Chandler* arrives in Prescott and becomes the first veterinary surgeon for the Territory of Arizona.
- 1891** – Dr. Chandler buys 80 acres of land south of Mesa in the Salt River Valley. He begins studying *irrigation* to bring water to the desert.
- 1892** – Dr. Chandler and two friends from Detroit form the Consolidated Canal Company.
- 1908** – Granite Reef Diversion Dam is completed and construction begins on the South Canal, which is designed to connect all canals on the south side of the river with the new dam.
- 1910** – More than 100,000 acres of land are under *cultivation* in the Valley.
- 1911** – The charter of the Salt River Project rules that each landowner can get only enough water to irrigate 160 acres. Dr. Chandler's land ownership totals nearly 18,000 acres at this time.
- 1912** – February 14, Valentine's Day. Arizona becomes the 48th state!
- 1912** – May 17. The Town of Chandler is formed when Dr. Chandler subdivides and begins selling plots of his land ranging from 10 to 160 acres. The newly completed Arizona Eastern Railroad brings 300 buyers who spend \$50,000 for land that day.
- 1912** – September. A schoolhouse is built to accommodate 120 students. It is already too small for the number of school-aged children in the area.
- 1913** – November 22. Five hundred guests come to the grand opening of the San Marcos Hotel. It is the first exclusive resort in Arizona.
- 1920** – Chandler is *incorporated* as a town. Dr. A.J. Chandler is appointed Mayor and serves four months.
- 1954** – With an increase in population, Chandler officially becomes a city!

**TODAY** – The City of Chandler has grown to a population of more than 252,000 people! The Chandler Unified School District has 34 elementary schools, four junior high schools and four high schools. There are also several private schools. Other school districts within Chandler's boundaries include Kyrene, Tempe Union, Mesa and Gilbert.

While agriculture is still important in Chandler, many manufacturing, electronic and finance companies are providing jobs for the families that live here.

The Center for the Arts, Chandler Fashion Center, new parks, including a skate park, bike park, restaurants and retail centers entertain residents and visitors alike. There are also many family events, such as the Ostrich Festival, Multicultural Festival and the Tumbleweed Tree Lighting Festival, that make Chandler a popular city to visit for travelers from all over the world.

# How Chandler City Government Works

In Arizona, incorporated cities and towns operate under **general law** or **home rule charter**. Chandler operates under home rule charter. This means the citizens can write their own **charter** but it does have certain restrictions. A charter outlines the city's "governmental structure," (see below) identifies "**jurisdiction**" and provides "**enabling authority**" for self-rule.

Chandler uses a council-manager form of government. This form of government combines the leadership of elected officials (the City Council) with the managerial experience of an appointed administrator (the City Manager).

The City Council is made up of the Mayor and six Councilmembers. The citizens of Chandler elect them. The Mayor serves a two-year term, and Councilmembers serve four-year terms.

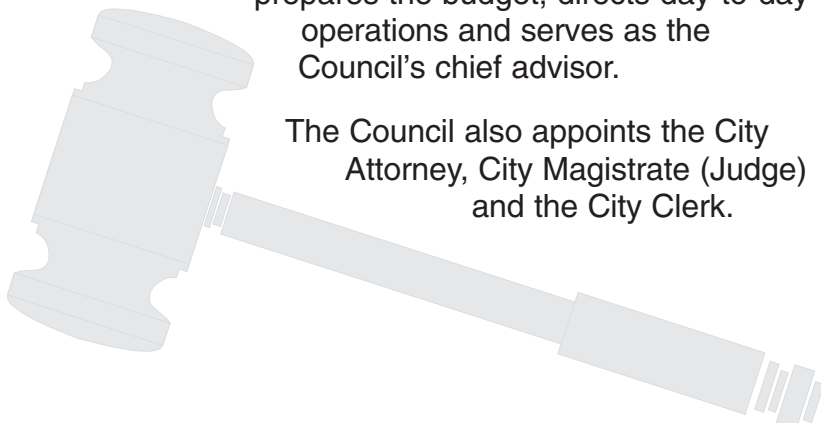
The Mayor can be elected for up to four **consecutive** terms. Councilmembers can be elected for up to two consecutive terms.

The Council is responsible for setting policy, approving the **budget** and determining the tax rate.

The Mayor is a City Councilmember. He or she is responsible for presiding over the City Council meeting and is the ceremonial head of the City. The Mayor has an equal vote on matters before the Council and does not have the power to **veto** legislative actions.

The City Manager, who is appointed by the Council, acts to carry out the Council's policies. The City Manager also prepares the budget, directs day-to-day operations and serves as the Council's chief advisor.

The Council also appoints the City Attorney, City Magistrate (Judge) and the City Clerk.



# Passing a Law

*How does a law  
(or ordinance)  
get passed in Chandler?  
There are five important  
steps:*

## 1

A citizen, staff member or Council member presents an issue he or she feels is in need of an ordinance.

## 2

The staff prepares the ordinance, which is reviewed by the City Attorney.

## 3

A City staff member or a Councilmember makes a recommendation that the ordinance be drafted.

## 4

Two meetings are held where the public can comment on the ordinance. At these meetings, the Council can tentatively adopt (at the first meeting) and finally adopt (at the second meeting) the ordinance.

## 5

Thirty days after final adoption, the ordinance becomes law.

# Chandler City Council

## A Sample Agenda

Chandler City Council meetings allow citizens an opportunity to address the Council. Following is what usually happens at a typical Council meeting:

**Words in Bold are defined in the glossary on page 10**

The Mayor calls the meeting to order.

The first order of business is the **invocation** and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Next are any scheduled public appearances. These may include awards, **proclamations** and other presentations. This time also allows any citizen to talk to the City Council.

Any items listed under the **consent agenda** have been discussed at the previous study session meeting. All of these items will be decided on with one vote.

Items listed under the **action agenda** are each handled by a separate motion and vote. The Mayor and Council receive a **briefing** of the item by the City staff. The Mayor calls for comments and discussion from the audience. Audience members addressing the Council approach the podium in an orderly manner, clearly state their name and address, and direct any comments or questions to the Mayor and Council. Then, the Council votes.

After all items are heard, the Mayor spends some time discussing current events, thanks the Council and the audience and ends the meeting.

## City Council Meetings

The City Council holds meetings to take official action two times each month.

Three things the Council votes on are **zoning**, **ordinances** and **resolutions**.

The meetings are generally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

The City Council Chambers are located on the second floor of the Chandler Main Library, 22 S. Delaware St.

The City Council meetings are open to the public and are also televised on Chandler's Cable Channel 11.

Study sessions are held at 7 p.m. on the Monday before each Council meeting. Study sessions are used to review any upcoming Council action. No votes are taken at the study session.



## ***Mayor's Youth Commission***

### ***Mayor's Youth Commission***

The Mayor's Youth Commission is designed to give students a voice in Chandler's government. Students meet once a month to discuss issues facing both the City and the youth of Chandler. The students form discussion groups, brainstorm and think of possible solutions to potential problems and present them to the Mayor and City Council.

The commission also focuses on development of leadership and commitment to community service. Members have participated in many events, including a mentor program through the Salvation Army, visiting nursing homes, collecting donations of toiletry items for homebound senior citizens and cleaning up the City in recognition of Cesar Chavez Day. The commission holds leadership conferences and meets with other city youth commissions to discuss important issues.

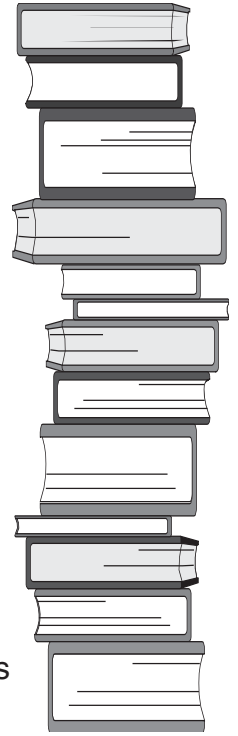
There are 25 spots on the Youth Commission that can be filled by youth that live in Chandler and are in 7th through 12th grade. Applications are available through the City's Recreation office or ask your school counselor.

### ***Write to the Mayor***

Your ideas are important! You can send a letter to the Mayor if you have any questions about the City or suggestions about how to make it better.

Mayor  
Mail Stop 603  
PO Box 4008  
Chandler, AZ 85244-4008

# Do YOU have a library card?



Getting a library card is easy, and even better it's free! If you are between the ages of:

**13-17:** Simply present ID that contains your current address, like a driver's license. If your ID does not contain your address then another official document (checkbook, postmarked mail, lease/mortgage, bill, voter's registration, etc.) may be presented along with some form of ID, like a school ID card.

If you cannot provide proof of address then you must be accompanied by your parent/legal guardian who can provide ID and proof of address for you.

**12 and Younger:** You must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian who can show ID and proof of address. There is no age restriction as to who may obtain a library card.

More than 1.2 million people visited Chandler Public Libraries each year. They checked out more than 1.8 million items, including books, videos, CDs and audio books last year alone! You also have access to the World Wide Web using the library's computers.

## **Downtown Branch**

22 S. Delaware St.

Telephone:

(480) 782-2800

## **Hamilton Branch**

3700 S. Arizona Ave.

Telephone:

(480) 782-2828

## **Sunset Branch**

4930 W. Ray Road

Telephone:

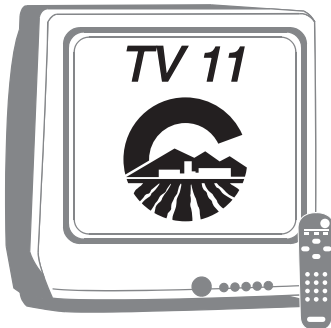
(480) 782-2840

## **Basha Branch**

5990 S. Vista Dr.

Telephone:

(480) 782-2850



## Find out More

Chandler Channel 11 is the City's government access station for televising city, state and nationally produced shows, public meetings, special events, bulletins and general information. Chandler Channel can be found on your cable television's channel 11.

Currently, there are five shows featuring Chandler news and information.

***Sprinkler's Clubhouse*** – An innovative and entertaining children's program, which teaches youngsters about important fire and life safety rules.

***Come Out & Play, Chandler*** – The Community Services Department hosts this award-winning show promoting leisure activities and opportunities.

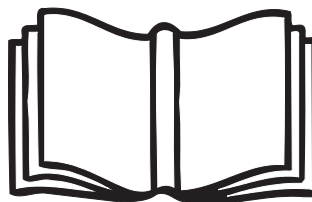
***All Things Chandler*** – Get an insider's look at how the City operates and learn about all of the happenings in the City.

***Mayor's Review*** – The Mayor and a special guest discuss issues that affect Chandler.

***Chandler in Focus*** – A member of the City Council hosts this program which looks at community issues with a different guest each month.



# *Community Services*

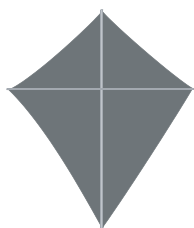


The Community Services Department takes care of the parks and pools, the public libraries, and the Center for the Arts. These facilities are very popular with the citizens of Chandler. The City is always looking for ways to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in the community!

## *Parks & Recreation*

### *Where do parks come from?*

An area is identified as a good place for a park. In Chandler, we try to build neighborhood parks in each square mile of the City. The City Council approves the purchase of the land for the park. The money to purchase the land comes from bonds that are approved by voters, or through a fee developers pay when they build new houses. Professional planners design the park with input from citizens and City staff as to what the needs of the area might be. The park is built and dedicated.



*The City of Chandler has 59 parks.*

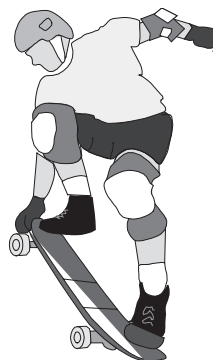
*The City of Chandler has 6 public swimming pools.*



*The City of Chandler has 27 public tennis courts and a lake for fishing.*

*The City of Chandler has an arena for in-line skating and skate boarding that has won two national awards.*

*The City of Chandler also has the Paseo Trail System, a multi-use pathway for bicyclists, a bike park, equestrians and other recreational uses.*



# Fire & Police Departments

The Fire and Police departments help keep Chandler safe. If you ever have an emergency and need to contact either department, call 9-1-1!



## Fire Department

The Chandler Fire Department responded to 14,560 calls for service last year. Most of these calls are medical emergencies like car accidents serious health problems that happen unexpectedly. The average length of time it takes for firefighters to respond to an emergency is less than five minutes!

***If you have a fire emergency, do you know what to do?***

- Get out of the house! Don't go back in for anything – not a family member, not a pet, not a favorite toy! The firefighters will be there to rescue anyone left in the house and put out the fire.

***Remember: feel your door before you open it. If it is hot, DO NOT OPEN IT!***

- Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house
- Have a pre-arranged meeting place to gather with your family. This is important. If you do not have a gathering place, talk to your family about it today!  
ALSO: know how to escape from your house! Make sure everyone in your family knows how to get out from at least two exits. This might be the door AND the window from a bedroom.
- If your clothes catch on fire – remember what you have already learned:

***STOP! DROP! ROLL!***

## Police Department

Last year, Chandler Police received 113,501 calls for service. While that seems like a lot of calls, major crime in Chandler has decreased and Chandler is rated in the top 100 cities in the country for safety! Chandler police officers have united with the schools to teach kids how to resist peer pressure and build self-esteem through the D.A.R.E. program. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education.



Chandler Police have also started a program called P.A.V.E. Prevent Abuse and Violence through Education is taught in middle schools and high schools in Chandler. This program teaches young adults about domestic violence and how they can be part of the solution.

***Facts to Know:***

- Drug abuse causes family problems
- Drug users often end up in jail
- Drug users often get into gang-related activities
- Traffic accidents are often drug and alcohol related



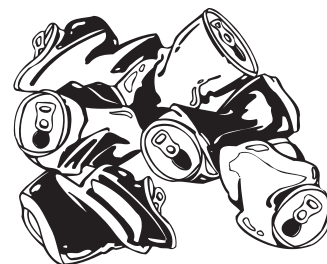
# *Public Works and Municipal Utilities*

The Public Works and Municipal Utilities departments provide many useful services to our community. They are responsible for bringing us clean water, taking away our trash and recyclables and keeping our streets clean and well maintained.

## ***Do YOU recycle?***

### ***Aluminum items***

- Beverage cans
- Pie baking tins
- Steel food cans (vegetable, fruit, coffee cans)

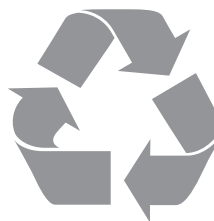


### ***Plastics 1-6***

- Look for the triangle with the number in it on the bottom of the container.
- Milk jugs, detergent, softener, shampoo bottles, beverage containers

### ***Paper***

- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Office copy paper and printing paper
- Cardboard
- Cereal, pasta, cookie, detergent boxes
- Telephone books



### ***Glass containers***

- Clear, brown and green food and beverage containers only!

It is estimated that more than one-third of the landfills in the United States will be full within the NEXT FIVE YEARS! That is why we recycle in Chandler. When you recycle, you are doing your part to make our City a great place to live and a better place for the future. REMEMBER, if you are not sure it's recyclable, put it in the trash container.

When in doubt, throw it out!

## ***Water Facts***

The City of Chandler takes great pride in providing high quality drinking water. Last year, City employees processed more than 19 billion gallons of water!

Our water comes from snow in the mountains. The melting snow runs off into lakes and dams. The water is distributed through the Salt River to a system of canals. The canals bring the water to the City water plants where it is treated to make it safe to drink. The water is then pumped to homes.

### ***Water Saving Tips***

- Turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth and washing your hands
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket
- Keep a bottle of cold water in the refrigerator to drink from instead of running the water waiting for it to get cold
- Use leftover drinking water to water you plants
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your walks, driveway and sidewalk



# *Other Important Departments and Divisions*

Management Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, Planning and Development and Communications and Public Affairs are five other departments and divisions that help provide necessary services to the City.

## ***Management Services***

Management Services conducts the business of the City of Chandler. Everything from buying paperclips to maintaining City vehicles is taken care of in Management Services. Some of the services covered by this department include accounting, budget management (taking care of the City's money), customer services, fleet services (buying cars) and purchasing (buying things like paper).

## ***Human Resources***

Human Resources hires new employees for the City of Chandler and takes care of current employees. They are in charge of payroll, safety classes and benefits for the employees.

## ***Information Technology***

Information Technology is in charge of taking care of the City's computers.

## ***Planning and Development***

Planning and Development keeps an eye on Chandler's future. It sees where roads need to go and decides on what sort of buildings can be put up in the City. Chandler was the second fastest growing city in the 1990s and is currently in the top 10. Since Chandler is growing so fast, this department is busy making sure Chandler is a convenient and beautiful place to live.

Here are a few of the things that happen in Planning and Development:

- *Issue building permits for new buildings*
- *Inspects for zoning code compliance*
- *Public housing and redevelopment of older areas*
- *Maps out plans for what goes where in the community*

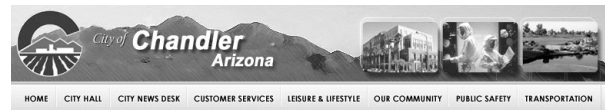
## ***Communications and Public Affairs***

The City of Chandler has a lot of important information that the people who live here need to know. It is the job of the Communications and Public Affairs Department to get that information out.

Many people call every day to have their questions answered, but sometimes it is easier to get the word out to large audiences. This office contacts newspapers, television and radio stations to let them know when something important is going to happen so they can report it.

The Communications and Public Affairs Department produces many brochures and newsletters like *City Scope*, which is delivered to Chandler residents with the utility bill. Another job of this department is to produce the award-winning television programs that are shown on Cable Channel 11.

The City of Chandler's Web site ([www.chandleraz.gov](http://www.chandleraz.gov)) is designed and maintained by the Communications and Public Affairs Department. The Web site can help residents and people who are interested in Chandler learn about the City. The Web site has links to the events and attractions in Chandler, like parks, museums, libraries, the mall and festivals. It also has information about the Mayor, Councilmembers, courts and voting registration. If someone is thinking about moving to Chandler, they can do research on the history of the City and even see what the weather is like here. You can check out the Web site for yourself! Visit the City of Chandler at [www.chandleraz.gov](http://www.chandleraz.gov)



# Glossary

**Action Agenda:** items at the City Council meetings that the public may have a concern about. Action is taken on one item at a time. The public and interested parties can make presentations or voice their opinion to the Council before a vote is taken.

**Agenda:** a list of things to be done.

**Appointed:** a person or persons with authority to select or appoint a specific person to carry out the duties of an office.

**Attorney:** a lawyer or legal agent qualified to act for other people in legal proceedings.

**Briefing:** a summary or outline providing facts about something.

**Bonds:** people can give money to a governmental body and in return they give out a certificate. After a set amount of time, the certificate holder turns in the certificate to the government. The government then pays the certificate holder back in the amount originally paid plus extra money for interest.

**Budget:** a plan for coordinating City income and expenses.

**Building Permit:** a license giving a person authority to build in the city.

**Canal:** a man-made waterway.

**Charter:** official rights granted to a city by a governing body like the U.S. Constitution.

**Clerk:** an official responsible for City records and accounts.

**Consecutive:** following in order, one after another.

**Consent Agenda:** non-controversial, standard items like construction contracts that no one is protesting. These items are grouped together and voted on in one motion to save time.

**Cultivation:** land prepared for growing crops.

**Dedication:** to save sections of land for public use, like parks.

**Demographics:** characteristics of groups of people, like how many people live in certain areas.

**Draft:** an outline or plan.

**Enabling Authority:** legal power granted to the City to govern itself.

**General Law:** a law that everyone in the community must follow no matter where you are in the City.

**Home Rule Charter:** a plan drawn up for a city and adopted by the popular vote of its people.

**Incorporated:** To become united or combined into an organized city.

**Invocation:** a prayer at the beginning of a meeting or service.

**Irrigation:** providing a supply of water to the land.

**Jurisdiction:** the power, right, or authority to interpret the law.

**Magistrate:** an official, also called a judge, entrusted with administering the laws.

**Official Action:** a legal and formal action done by an official or officials of the City.

**Ordinance:** a municipal law or regulation.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** written by Francis Bellamy in 1892 to express a promise or to declare loyalty to the U.S. and the flag.

**Proclamation:** a formal declaration.

**Recycle:** to take trash and turn it into something else or make it available for reuse.

**Resolution:** deciding on a solution to an issue.

**Tentatively:** temporary, not fully worked out.

**Term:** a fixed period of time that an elected official serves.

**Zoning Codes:** regulations having to do with how buildings are built and how they are maintained.

